Introduction

Growing up as a kid in Melville, Long Island, I often found myself milling around with my friend Kevin, never with all that much to do. Sure, there was swimming in the summer, ice hockey in the winter, football in the afternoons… even school. Still, there was always that void on Saturday morning between my second bowl of cereal and wiffle ball in the backyard. That is, until that fateful day when I was introduced to the fast-paced world of professional wrestling. Never again would I be bored on a Saturday morning. I was instantly mesmerized by the slick gimmicks and promos, piledrivers and body slams, the "good guy" beating up the "bad guy" to right the world. I had found my niche! That is, until high school.

Suddenly, I was much more interested in the length of the skirt the girl sitting next to me in third period math was wearing than who was wearing the Championship Belt. Wrestling had become little more than an afterthought in my life, but I didn't much care, as the gimmicks seemed to be getting worse by the day, and the whole notion of watching two guys in ridiculous outfits push each other around had become completely stale. Besides, there was that girl in third period… This was my mindset throughout high school and the beginning of college until one night, when once again, I was milling around with Kevin with nothing to do. He popped a tape into the VCR to record a show for his father. That show was Extreme Championship Wrestling. I had not watched a single match in nearly four years, and yet after just one hour of programming, I was hooked on wrestling again! That's how good it was.

I fondly recall seeing my first ECW live event in 1996 at the ramshackle Deer Park Community Center. Even now as I watch ECW weekly on national television and on Pay Per View, I can't help but feel that somehow I was part of something special. It's almost like the pride a parent takes in watching an unstable infant take its first steps, and eventually develop into a world class track star. Since that first show in 1996, I've enjoyed countless hours of ECW excitement, both on television and in person. I celebrated my 21st birthday watching a TV taping at the Queen's House of Hardcore. All of this is why I'm so excited that Extreme Championship Wrestling will finally be immortalized on the home gaming console by the undisputed World Champion of Wrestling Video Games, Acclaim! **ECW: Hardcore Revolution** is going to take the genre of wrestling games to the next level, and I sincerely hope this Strategy Guide will help you navigate your rough road to the title!

I'd like to thank everybody at ECW and Acclaim for making **ECW: Hardcore Revolution**, and this Strategy Guide, possible. I'd especially like to thank (in no particular order) Walter Black, Stacy Brickel, Evan Stein and Mike Archer for giving me the chance to be a part of this great project. I also want to thank all of the hard-working men and women of ECW, who not only have provided me with endless hours of entertainment and amazement, but who have also been an absolute pleasure to work with. I'd also like to thank all the people who helped keep me sane during this project, namely my family,

the members of Team Houda, the Adelphi University Cross Country Team and Mary Joe. Finally, I have to thank the “jobbers” that have “put me over” during the years by suffering great embarrassments at my hands -- Mitchell and Leibo, it’s your time! Writing this book has been one of the most exciting experiences of my life, and if you have half as much fun playing **ECW: Hardcore Revolution** as I had writing its strategy guide, then you’re in for an *extremely* great time! ECW! ECW! ECW…